

## Monthly Report Template for COMPETE Grantees

**Grantee:** African Cotton & Textile Industry Federation (ACTIF)

**Report for the month of:** May 2012

Based on your grant agreement implementation timeline, please highlight the activities you have accomplished over the past month.

<b>Activities</b> <i>Activities should be directly in-line with your grant agreement</i>	<b>Activity Status</b> <i>If the activity has been accomplished, please give results. If the activity has not been accomplished, please provide an explanation.</i>
<b>Result #1: Leadership provided in the implementation of the COMESA CTC strategy</b>	
<b>(1.1) To lead, develop, coordinate and monitor progress of key implementation activities of the COMESA regional CtC strategy</b> Develop an implementation roadmap to guide the implementation process for the regional strategy	<b>ON GOING</b>  <i>An implementation committee has been set up with ACTIF secretariat as the coordinating body.</i>  <i>ED was able to present proposals to EU body – COS coton for seeking support for key activities under COMESA Strategy</i>
<b>(1.2) Build the capacity of the COMESA strategy implementation committee and in conjunction with COMPETE, hold an initial planning meeting, followed by two implementation progress update meetings</b>	<i>First Committee meeting was held in February and terms of reference adopted.</i>  <i>The date for next committee has been proposed for 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August in Lusaka Zambia subject to availability of committee members and progress of implementation</i>
<b>(1.3) Engage with the Southern Africa Trade Hub (SATH) to align the regional strategy focus areas and actions, and seek support and ownership for key strategy initiatives in the southern Africa region for implementing the COMESA CTC strategy)</b>	<b>ON GOING</b>  <i>First meeting was held in February and a raft of proposals for collaboration generated.</i>  <i>Feedback from ACTIF board on proposal for collaboration submitted to SA Trade Hub and a meeting planned for June 12<sup>th</sup> between ACTIF and SA Trade Hub to discuss the proposals</i>
<b>(1.4) Develop an information pack on best practices for managing fiber contamination in seed cotton, to improve the regions' reputation as a supplier and (1.5) Develop a pre-ginning classification guide on best practices to improve uniformity of fiber characteristics and to inform national seed cotton grade standards</b>	<b>ON GOING</b>  <i>ITC recommended a consultant who has conducted similar work and a proposal was forwarded requesting him to submit an Expression of Interest.</i>  <i>The consultant has expressed that he is willing to do the job but is only available in September. He has also not confirmed if our budgeted terms are acceptable to him.</i>
<b>(1.6) Develop an inventory of regional textile and apparel educational institutions including Universities and vocational training centers, and assess their capacities to train relative to leading international institutions</b>	<b>ON GOING</b>  <i>ACTIF has partnered with COMESA through COS cotton. ACTIF has engaged a local consultant to conduct the review while COMESA will fund a regional meeting in SA where the findings will be presented and reviewed. While the consultant is proceeding with the tasks, the regional meeting was originally scheduled to be held in mod June but later postponed to a date that will be</i>

	<i>fixed after July.</i>
(1.7) Convene a regional forum of training institutions to initiate the matching of existing curricula with current industry needs across the value chain	<p><b>PENDING</b></p> <p><i>This will be a local meeting in Kenya and meeting will be held after the regional meeting above is concluded</i></p>
<b>Result #2: Improved regional business environment, improved trade policies and enhanced opportunities</b>	
(2.1) Conduct an analysis of the revised rules of origin under the EU EPA, and the proposed market access and rules of origin under the Tripartite agreement, and develop an ACTIF / Industry negotiation and advocacy position	<p><b>ON GOING</b></p> <p>This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. We are still awaiting update from COMPETE.</p>
(2.2) Prepare a statistical trade report on EAC regional trade potential and review EAC FTA rules of origin to establish industry recommendations to improve the free flow of trade in the EAC	<p><b>PENDING</b></p> <p>This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. We are still awaiting update from COMPETE.</p>
(2.3) Hold a technical committee meeting to review and establish private sector industry positions on the various trade policy issues impacting market access and trade, specifically covering arrangements under the EU EPA's, the EAC rules of origin and FTA, and the Tripartite	<p><b>DATE &amp; VENUE PROPOSED</b></p> <p><i>The date for the Technical committee meeting has been proposed to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya</i></p>
(2.4) Disseminate information on the various trade policy positions reached, the regulatory requirements, and factors impacting market access through regional workshops, posting on cottonafrica.com website, and through the ACTIF quarterly magazine	<p><b>PENDING</b></p> <p><i>Dissemination to follow after the technical committee meeting</i></p>
<b>Result #3: Institutional Capacity of ACTIF strengthened</b>	
(3.1) In conjunction with COMPETE, assess the results of the external institutional assessment of ACTIF's technical and operational capacity and to strengthen its capability of directly sourcing and managing funds from USAID and other donors – <i>this activity will have no budget implication</i>	<p><b>POSTPONED</b></p> <p><i>Was reschedule to April but again to postponed to first week of June following the Origin Africa event</i></p> <p><i>Some manuals were however availed to the staff to conduct an internal assessment.</i></p> <p><i>Development of ACTIF business plan in line with strategic plan kicked off with the support of USAID COMPETE. Initial meetings were held with consultant.</i></p>

Result #4: Value Added products and services developed	
(4.2) Expand market access and trade opportunities for our members under AGOA by collaborating with ECA Trade Hub to track policy interventions under AGOA, identify possible firm level interventions, broaden firm-level networks and connect businesses across the region	<p><b>PENDING</b></p> <p>This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. This activity is yet to be initiated with ACTIF.</p>
(4.3) Collaborate with COMPETE to conduct an EU end-market analysis to establish an alternative market option and to spread market risk. Disseminate information to stakeholders and members through cottonafrica.com website, regional workshops and Trade Hub networks	<p><b>PENDING</b></p> <p>This activity is to be conducted by COMPETE Trade Policy team but information is yet to be received by ACTIF.</p>
(4.4) Sustain the development and publication of the Cotton Africa Magazine on a quarterly basis, focusing on topical issues.	<p><b>ONGOING</b></p> <p><i>Online French version of magazine developed for Issue 3 (Jan – March period).</i></p> <p><i>Development of Issue 4 is currently on going</i></p>
(4.5) Improve ACTIF's market information system to increase revenues by upgrading the cottonafrica.com website to include new features that allow greater flexibility to the registered traders	<p><b>ONGOING</b></p> <p>Review meeting held and an updated upgrade report compiled.</p>
(4.6) Establish an on-line textile directory, incorporating HS code classification features, to be the catalyst for increased inter-regional trade, and as a manufacturing information source for regional and global retailers and brand	<p><b>ON GOING</b></p> <p>Draft Directory generated. Data will be input into the website once the upgrade is completed.</p>

PS: Other ACTIF activities outside the implementation plan will be featured in the Quarter 2 report

#### Attachments

- ACTIF proposals to COS Coton
- Online Magazine - French link: [http://magazine.cottonafrica.com/magazine\\_fr/](http://magazine.cottonafrica.com/magazine_fr/)
- Concept for regional meeting for training institutions and industry representatives
- EOI for regional consultant to review training institutions curriculums and develop report
- ACTIF proposals to SA Trade Hub